Mayo Clinic M.D.-Ph.D. Program Current Students *

Junior MD Phase (M1 - M2)

Maria Astudillo Potes
M2

Shreya Bellampalli, B.S.
University of Arizona
M2

Research Interest: Molecular mechanisms of neuropathy and drug development for the treatment of neuropathy

Caroline Doherty, B.S.
Georgetown University
M1

Research Interest: Cancer biology

Mihai Dumbrava
M1

Michael Jensen, B.S.
Oregon State University
M2

Research Interest: Pathology of the gut-brain axis after traumatic brain injury

Kevin Le, B.S.
University of Texas at Austin
M1

Research Interest: Immunology and immunotherapy in the context of cancer treatment

Olivia Liseth, B.S.
University of Florida
M1

Research Interest: Immunology, immunotherapies, biomedical engineering

Jordan Marks, B.S.
Northeastern University
M2

Research Interest: Neurodegeneration and regenerative medicine
Kianna Nguyen, B.S.  
University of Colorado-Boulder  
M2

Research Interest: Engineering biomaterial platforms for regenerative medicine

Praveen Pallegar, B.S.  
Stanford University  
M1

Caitlin VanLith, B.S.  
St. Olaf College  
M2

Research Interest: Virology

Jessica Weng, B.S.  
Rice University  
M2

Research Interest: Antimicrobial resistance, microbial ecology, cancer immunotherapy, and cancer biology

Grace Yu, B.S.  
McGill University  
M1

Research Interest: Computational modeling and simulations of biomedical systems

Sherry Zhou, B.S.  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
M1

Research Interest: Biochemistry of cancer development and early cancer detection
Research Phase (G)

Jacob Anderson, B.S.
University of Minnesota-Rochester
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. David Daniels, Advisor
Research Interest: Development of novel chemical tools for the study and treatment of primary CNS neoplasms

Sahej Bains, B.S.
Purdue University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest: Developing Therapeutics for Long QT Syndrome Type 2

Whitney Barham, B.S.
Rhodes College
Immunology
Dr. Haidong Dong, Advisor
Research Interest: Tumor immunology: How to increase the cytotoxicity of T cells in response to PD-1 blockade

Susanna Basappa, B.S.
University of San Francisco
Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Lila Rutten, Advisor
Research Interest: Variation in mode of detection for breast cancer by breast density and stage at diagnosis

Mylan Blomquist, B.S.
Arizona State University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Nhan Tran, Advisor
Research Interest: Signal transduction in glioblastoma

Justin Choe
Immunology
Dr. Virginia Shapiro, Advisor
Research Interest: Leveraging sialic acid-siglec interactions to mitigate autoimmunity

Steven Dotzler, B.A.
Concordia College
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest: Development of KCNQ1 gene therapy for type 1 long QT syndrome

Armin Garmany, B.S.
Marshall University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Andre Terzic, Advisor
Research Interest: Regenerative therapies in heart failure models
Ramin Garmany, B.S.
Marshall University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Michael Ackerman, Advisor
Research Interest: Investigating the role of genetics in congenital heart diseases

Abhinav Goyal, B.S. (Hon)
Columbia University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor
Research Interest: Artificial intelligence, neural engineering, neurosurgical devices

Ethan Grund, B.A.
Wesleyan University
Neuroscience
Dr. Charles Howe, Advisor
Research Interest: Neuroimmunology

Harvey Huang, B.S.A.
University of Pennsylvania
Research Interest: Cardiac implantable devices, electrophysiology mapping and ablation

Josiane Joseph, B.S.
University of Florida
Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Jason Doles, Advisor
Research Interest: The influence of metabolic alterations on satellite cell function and muscle regeneration

Jake Kloebre, B.S.
University of Rochester
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Zhenkun Lou, Advisor
Research Interest: Genomic instability, chromosome segregation, and DNA repair

Christopher Livia, B.S.
Florida International University
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor
Research Interest: Cell-Free Regenerative Interventions in Cardiac Ischemia

Arnaldo Mercado-Perez, B.S.
Johns Hopkins University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Arthur Beyder, Advisor
Research Interest: Mechanisms of mechanotransduction in the GI tract
Dileep Monie, B.A.
Harvard University
Immunology
Dr. Hu Li, Advisor
Research Interest: Network Mechanisms and Bioengineering of Precision Regenerative Immunotherapies

Joseph Panos, B.S., M.S.
Ohio State University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Chris Evans, Advisor
Research Interest: Treatment of long bone fracture and nonunion

Lindy Pence
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Dr. Panos Anastasiadis, Advisor
Research Interest: How cells adhere to neighboring cells and how this process is disrupted in disease states

Skylar Rizzo, B.S.
University of Florida
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor
Research Interest: Exosomes as a gene delivery platform

Aaron Rusheen, B.S.
University of Rochester
Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Kendall Lee, Advisor
Research Interest: Neurochemical biomarkers to improve treatment efficacy of deep brain stimulation, development of neural devices for ultra-high field image-guided surgery

Jonathan Scott, B.S.
Washington State University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Richard Ehman, Advisor
Research Interest: Machine learning algorithms for mechanical property estimation in Magnetic Resonance Elastography

John Strikwerda
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Steven Sine, Advisor

Taylor Trentadue, B.S.
Duke University
Biomedical Engineering & Physiology
Dr. Kristin Zhao, Advisor
Research Interest: Orthopedic biomechanics and musculoskeletal imaging
Kenneth Valles, B.S.
University of Colorado
Clinical & Translational Science
Dr. Lewis Roberts, Advisor
Research Interest: Epidemiological modeling of infectious origin cancers in migrant and refugee populations

Taylor Weiskittel, B.E.
University of Tennessee
M.S., University of Minnesota
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Hu Li, Advisor
Research Interest: Systems biology algorithms for understanding individualized disease and biotechnology engineering

Lincoln Wurtz, B.A.
Ripon College
Research Interest: Neurology, neurodegeneration, and neuronal regeneration

Senior MD Phase (M3 - M4)

Hirotaka Ata, B.S.
University of South Alabama
M4
Clinical and Translational Science
Dr. Stephen Ekker, Advisor
Research Interest: Gene therapy and gene editing

Eugene Bah
M4
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Steven Russell, Advisor

Joseph Barnett, B.S.
Western Michigan University
M3
Research Interest: Biological Psychiatry

Lucien Jay
M3
Mark Li, B.S., M.A.
University of Toronto
MS3
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Atta Behfar, Advisor

Research Interest: Gene engineering approach for cardiopoiesis

Daniel Lindberg
MS3
Neuroscience
Dr. Doo-Sup Choi, Advisor

Justin Maroun, B.S.
Texas A&M
MS3
Virology & Gene Therapy
Dr. Steven Russell, Advisor

Research Interest: Oncolytic viruses: viruses that infect and kill tumors

Cordelia McGehee
MS3
Molecular Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics
Dr. Scott Kaufmann, Advisor

Alex Roth, B.A.
Yale University
M.S., MPH, Boston University
MS3

Research Interest: Immunology

Matthew Schuelke, B.S.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
MS4
Immunology
Dr. Richard Vile, Advisor

Research Interest: Immunotherapy and virotherapy for pediatric brainstem tumors

John Smestad, B.S.
Wheaton College
MS4
Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
Dr. L. James Maher, Advisor

Research Interest: Understanding succinate-induced global transcriptional and epigenetic reprogramming and identifying unique vulnerabilities intrinsic to SDH-deficient cells

Erin Triplet, B.S.
Creighton University
MS3
Neuroscience
Dr. Isobel Scarisbrick, Advisor

Research Interest: Therapeutic strategies to enhance regeneration in CNS damage and demyelination
Katelynn Wilton, B.S.
Clarkson University
MS4
Immunology
Dr. Daniel Billadeau, Advisor

Research Interest: “Regulation of Natural Killer Cell-Mediated Cytotoxicity by the Enah/VASP protein Family;” immunology, cellular signaling, molecular biology, immunodeficiency, pathology

*Student participation is voluntary